Maryland
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1861
House
EXTRA SESSION

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[Document A.]

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

APRIL 27, 1861.

Read and 5,000 copies ordered to be printed.

MESSAGE

OF THE

GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND

TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

IN EXTRA SESSION, 1861.

FREDERICK:
E. S. RILEY, PRINTER.
1861.

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MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR

TO THE

Legislature of Maryland.

STATE OF MARYLAND, EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
ANNAPOLIS, April 25th, 1861.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Delegates:

The extraordinay condition of affairs in Maryland has induced me to exercise the constitutional prerogative vested in the Governor to summon the Legislature in special session, in the hope that your wisdom may enable you to devise prompt and effective means to restore peace and safety to our State.

I shall detail briefly the startling events which have induced me to summon you together, and which have so suddenly placed us in the state of anarchy, confusion and danger from which I sincerely trust you may be able to extricate us.

Believing it to be the design of the Administration to pass over our soil troops for the defence of the City of Washington, and fearing that the passage of such troops would excite our people and provoke collision, I labored earnestly to induce the President to forego his purpose. I waited upon him in person and urged the importance of my request. I subsequently communicated with him and his cabinet by special despatches, entreating an abandonment of their designs. To all my requests I could get but the reply: "that Washington was threatened with attack—that the government had resolved to defend it—that there was no

other way of obtaining troops than by passing them over the soil of Maryland—and that the military necessity of the case rendered it impossible for the Government to abandon its plans, much as it desired to avoid the dangers of collision." My correspondence with the authorities at Washington is herewith submitted.

The consequences are known to you. On Friday last a detachment of troops from Massachusetts reached Baltimore, and was attacked by an irresponsible mob, and several persons on both sides were killed. The Mayor and Police Board gave to the Massachusetts soldiers all the protection they could afford; acting with the utmost promptness and bravery. But they were powerless to restrain the mob.

Being in Baltimore at the time, I co-operated with the Mayor, to the fullest extent of my power, in his efforts. The military of the city were ordered out to assist in the preservation of the peace. The railroad companies were requested by the Mayor and myself to transport no more troops to Baltimore city, and they promptly acceded to our request.

Hearing of the attack upon the soldiers, the War Department issued orders that no more troops should pass through Baltimore City, provided they were allowed to pass outside its limits. Subsequently, a detatchment of troops was ascertained to be encamped at or near Cockeysville, in Baltimore County. On being informed of this the War Department ordered them back.

Before leaving Baltimore, Col. Huger, who was in command of the U. S. Arsenal at Pikesville, informed me that he had resigned his commission. Being advised of the probability that the mob might attempt the destruction of this property, and thereby complicate our difficulties with the authorities at Washington, I ordered Col. Petherbridge to proceed, with sufficient force, and occupy the premises in the name of the United States Government; of which proceeding I immediately notified the War Department.

On Sunday morning last, I discovered that a detachment of troops, under command of Brig. Gen. B. F. Butler, had reached Annapolis in a steamer, and had taken possession of the practice ship Constitution, which, during that day, they succeeded in getting outside the harbor of Annapolis, where she now lies. After getting the ship off, the steamer laid outside our harbor, and was soon joined by another steamer, having on board the Seventh Regiment from New York City.

Brig. Gen. Butler addressed me, asking for permission to land his forces. It will be seen, from the correspondence

herewith submitted, that I refused my consent. The Mayor of Annapolis also protested. But both steamers soon afterwards landed at the Naval Academy and put off the troops. Subsequently, other large bodies of troops reached here in transports and were landed. I was notified that the troops were to be marched to Washington. They desired to go without obstruction from our people ; but they had orders to go to Washington, and were determined to obey those orders. In furtherance of their designs, they took military possession of the Annapolis and Elk Ridge Railroad ; in regard to which act I forwarded to Brig. Gen. Butler the protest, and received the reply herewith submitted. On Wednesday morning the two detachments first landed took up the line of March for Washington. The people of Annapolis, though greatly exasperated, acting under counsel of the most prudent citizens, refrained from molesting or obstructing the passage of the troops through the city.

Seriously impressed with the condition of affairs, and anxious to avoid a repetition of events similar to those which had transpired in Baltimore, I deemed it my duty to make another appeal to the authorities at Washington. Accordingly, I sent a special messenger to Washington, with a despatch to the administration advising that no more troops be sent through Maryland ; that the troops at Annapolis be sent elsewhere ; and urging that a truce be offered with a view of a peaceful settlement of existing difficulties by mediation. I suggested that Lord Lyons, the British Minister, be requested to act as mediator between the contending parties. The result of the mission will be seen from the correspondence herewith submitted.

These events have satisfied me that the War Department has concluded to make Annapolis the point for landing troops, and has resolved to open and maintain communication between this place and Washington.

In the brief time allowed, it is impossible for me to go more into detail. The documents accompanying this message place before you all the information possessed by me. I shall promptly communicate such other information as may reach me.

Notwithstanding the fact that our most learned and intelligent citizens admit the right of the Government to transport its troops across our soil, it is evident that a portion of the people of Maryland are opposed to the exercise of the right. I have done all in my power to protect the citizens of Maryland and to preserve peace within our borders.

Lawless occurrences will be repeated, I fear, unless prompt action be taken by you.

It is my duty to advise you of my own convictions of the proper course to be pursued by Maryland in the emergency which is upon us. It is of no consequence now to discuss the causes which have induced our troubles. Let us look to our distressing present, and to our portentous future. The fate of Maryland, and perhaps of her sister Border Slave States, will undoubtedly be seriously affected by the action of your Honorable Body. Therefore should every good citizen bend all his energies to the task before us; and therefore should the animosities and bickerings of the past be forgotten, and all strike hands in the holy cause of restoring peace to our beloved State and to our common country. I honestly and most earnestly entertain the conviction that the only safety of Maryland lies in preserving a neutral position between our brethren of the North and of the South. We have violated no rights of either section. We have been loyal to the Union. The unhappy contest between the two sections has not been fomented or encouraged by us, although we have suffered from it in the past. The impending war has not come by any act or any wish of ours. We have done all we could to avert it. We have hoped that Maryland, and the other Border Slave States, by their conservative position and love for the Union, might have acted as mediators between the extremes of both sections, and thus have prevented the terrible evils of a prolonged civil war. Entertaining these views, I cannot counsel Maryland to take sides against the General Government, until it shall commit outrages upon us which would justify us in resisting its authority. As a consequence, I can give no other counsel than that we shall array ourselves for Union and Peace, and thus preserve our soil from being polluted with the blood of brethren. Thus, if war must be between the North and the South, we may force the contending parties to transfer the field of battle from our soil, so that our lives and property may be secure. It seems to me that, independently of all other considerations, our geographical position forces us to this, unless we are willing to see our State the theatre of a long and bloody civil war, and the consequent utter destruction of every material interest of our people, to say nothing of the blood of brave men and innocent women and children which will cry out from our soil for vengeance upon us if we fail to do all that in us lies to avert the impending calamity.

The course I suggest has all the while been the sole ground-

work of my policy. But for the excitement prevailing among our people during the past few days, I believe the object I have kept steadily in view during my administration would have been consummated. If it has failed, I have the full consciousness that, throughout the whole of my harassing and painful incumbency of the Gubernatorial Chair, I have labored honestly and faithfully for the peace, the safety, and the interests of Maryland, and of our common country. This consciousness has fully sustained me in all my troubles, and has enabled me to endure patiently all the cruel, unmerited, and heartless attacks that have been made upon my integrity.

I have also comfort in the conviction that my policy has been sustained by a large majority of the people, and nothing that has transpired since the recent lamentable occurrences within our State has shaken that conviction. A momentary frantic excitement took the place of reason and good judgment, and men for the time threw aside all prudent thoughts of the future in the burning desire to avenge what they considered wrongs.

I submit my suggestions to your wisdom; and I appeal to you not only as devoted citizens of Maryland, but as husbands and fathers, to allow that prudence and christianlike temper, so honorable to all men, to guide your counsels; and I implore you not to be swayed by the passions which seem to be so fully aroused in our midst, to do what the generations to come after us shall ever deplore.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I ask your indulgence if I have omitted to present to you any other matter of interest in connection with the important subject which you are summoned to consider. The short time I have had in which to prepare this communication, and the turmoil and excitement around me may have caused omissions; if so, they will be promptly supplied when indicated by you.

THOMAS H. HICKS.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE AUTHORITIES AT WASHINGTON.

War Department,
April 17th, 1861.

His Excellency,

THOS. H. HICKS,

Governor of Maryland.

Dear Sir:—

The President has referred to me your letter of this day, and, in reply, I have the honor to say that the troops to be raised in Maryland will be needed for the defense of this Capital, and of the public property in that State and neighborhood. There is no intention of removing them beyond those points.

Very respectfully,

SIMON CAMERON,

Secretary of War.

Baltimore, April 17th, 1861.

To the President of the United States:

Sir:—

From the conversation I had yesterday, in Washington, with the Secretary of War, and with Lieutenant-General Scott, I understood that the four regiments of militia to be called for from Maryland were

to be posted and retained within the limits of this State, for the defense of the United States Government, the maintenance of the Federal authority, and the protection of the Federal Capital. I also understood it was the intention of the United States Government not to require their services outside of Maryland, except in defense of the District of Columbia.

Will you do me the favor to state, in reply, whether I am right in this understanding, so that, in responding to the lawful demands of the United States Government, I may be able to give effective and reliable aid for the support and defense of this Union.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

THOS. H. HICKS,
Governor of Maryland.

War Department,
Washington, April 17th, 1861.

To His Excellency,

THOS. H. HICKS,
Governor of Maryland.

Sir:—

The President has referred to me your communication of this date, in relation to our conversation of the previous day, and I have the honor to say, in reply, that your statement of it is correct.

The troops called for from Maryland are destined for the protection of the Federal Capital and the public property of the United States within the limits of the State of Maryland; and it is not intended to remove them beyond those limits except for the defense of this District.

I have the honor to be yours, &c.,

SIMON CAMERON,
Secretary of War.

War Department,
Washington, April 18th, 1861.

To His Excellency,

THOS. H. HICKS,
Governor of Maryland.

Sir:—

The President is informed that threats are made, and measures taken, by unlawful combinations of misguided citizens of Maryland,

to prevent by force the transit of United States troops, across Maryland, on their way pursuant to orders, for the defence of this capital. The information is from such sources and in such shapes, that the President thinks it his duty to make it known to you, so that all loyal and patriotic citizens of your State, may be warned in time, and that you may be prepared to take immediate and effective measures against it.

Such an attempt could have only the most deplorable consequences; and it would be as agreeable to the President, as it would be to yourself that it should be prevented, or overcome by the loyal authorities and citizens of Maryland, rather than averted by any other means.

I am very respectfully, yours, &c.

SIMON CAMERON,

Secretary of War.

STATE OF MARYLAND,

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
ANNAPOLIS, April 20th, 1861.

HON. S. CAMERON,

SIR:—

Since I saw you in Washington last, I have been in Baltimore City, laboring in conjunction with the Mayor of that city to preserve peace and order, but I regret to say with little success. Up to yesterday there appeared promise, but the outbreak came, the turbulent passions of the riotous element prevailed, fear for safety became reality, what they had endeavored to conceal, but what was known to us, was no longer concealed but made manifest; the rebellious element had the control of things. We were arranging and organizing forces to protect the city and preserve order, but want of organization, of arms, prevented success. They had arms, they had the principal part of the organized military forces with them, and for us to have made the effort, under the circumstances, would have had the effect to aid the disorderly element. They took possession of the Armories, have the arms and ammunition, and I therefore think it prudent, to decline, (for the present,) responding affirmatively to the requisition made by President Lincoln, for four regiments of infantry.

With great respect I am your obedient servant,

THOS. H. HICKS.

FREDERICK CITY, MD., April 20th, 1861.

HIS EXCELLENCY,

THOS. H. HICKS,

Governor of the State of Maryland,

Annapolis, Md.

SIR:—

In obedience to Special Orders, No. 106, Adjutant General's Office, Washington, D. C. of April 15th, 1861, (detailing me to muster into the service of the United States, the troops of this State called out by the President's proclamation, of that date,) I have the honor to report to you my arrival at this place.

I would be pleased to receive from you, at your earliest convenience, any information and instructions you may have to communicate to me, in reference to this duty.

I am sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

R. MACFEELY,

1st. Lieut. 4th Infantry.

STATE OF MARYLAND,

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
ANNAPOLIS, April 23d, 1861.

R. MACFEELY, ESQ.,

1st Lieut. 4th Infantry.

SIR:

Your letter of the 20th inst. was received this morning. I am directed by the Governor to inform you that no troops have been called out in Maryland, and that consequently your mission is at an end. And you will therefore report to the Secretary of War, who has been informed of the Governor's views in this matter.

Your obedient servant,

GEO. W. JEFFERSON,

Private Secretary.

ANNAPOLIS, April 20th, 1861.

To the Secretary of War:

I have understood that it is contemplated to send Northern Troops to garrison Fort Madison.

I would earnestly advise that none be sent.

Respectfully,

THOS. H. HICKS.

TELEGRAPHIC DISPATCH.

WASHINGTON, April 20th, 1861.

GOV. HICKS.

I desire to consult with you and the Mayor of Baltimore, relative to preserving the peace of Maryland. Please come immediately by special train, which you can take at Baltimore, or if necessary one can be sent from hence. Answer forthwith.

LINCOLN.

STATE OF MARYLAND.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
ANNAPOLIS, April 22d, 1861.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY,

A. LINCOLN,

President of the United States.

SIR:

I feel it my duty, most respectfully to advise you that no more troops be ordered or allowed to pass through Maryland, and that the troops now off Annapolis be sent elsewhere, and I most respectfully

urge that a truce be offered by you, so that the effusion of blood may be prevented. I respectfully suggest, that Lord Lyons be requested to act as mediator between the contending parties of our country.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

THOS. H. HICKS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
April 22d, 1861.

HIS EXCELLENCY,

THOS. H. HICKS,

Governor of Maryland.

SIR:—

I have had the honor to receive your communication of this morning, in which you inform me that you have felt it to be your duty to advise the President of the United States to order elsewhere the troops then off Annapolis, and also that no more may be sent through Maryland, and that you have further suggested that Lord Lyons be requested to act as mediator between the contending parties in our country, to prevent the effusion of blood.

The President directs me to acknowledge the receipt of that communication, and to assure you that he has weighed the counsels which it contains with the respect which he habitually cherishes for the Chief Magistrates of the several States, and especially for yourself. He regrets, as deeply as any magistrate or citizen of the country can, that demonstrations against the safety of the United States, with very extensive preparations for the effusion of blood, have made it his duty to call out the force to which you allude. The force now sought to be brought through Maryland is intended for nothing but the defense of this Capital. The President has necessarily confided the choice of the national highway, which that force shall take in coming to this city, to the Lieutenant-General commanding the army of the United States, who, like his only predecessor, is not less distinguished for his humanity than for his loyalty, patriotism, and distinguished public service.

The President instructs me to add, that the national highway thus selected by the Lieutenant-General has been chosen by him upon con-

sultation with prominent magistrates and citizens of Maryland as the one which, while a route is absolutely necessary, is farthest removed from the populous cities of the State, and with the expectation that it would therefore be the least objectionable one.

The President cannot but remember that there has been a time in the history of our country, when a General of the American Union, with forces designed for the defense of its Capital, was not unwelcome anywhere in the State of Maryland, and certainly not at Annapolis, then, as now, the Capital of that patriotic State, and then also one of the Capitals of the Union.

If eighty years could have obliterated all the other noble sentiments of that age in Maryland, the President would be hopeful nevertheless that there is one that would forever remain there and everywhere. That sentiment is, that no domestic contention whatever, that may arise among the parties of this Republic ought, in any case, to be referred to any foreign arbitrament, least of all to the arbitrament of an European monarchy.

I have the honor to be,

With distinguished consideration,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE MAYOR OF BALTIMORE.

[*Telegram from Mayor Brown.*]

BALTIMORE, April 20, 1861.

To Governor Hicks:

Letter from President and Gen. Scott. No troops to pass through Baltimore, if, as a military force, they can march around. I will answer that every effort will be made to prevent parties leaving the city to molest them; but cannot guarantee against acts of individuals not organized. Do you approve? GEO. WM. BROWN.

[*Telegram in Reply.*]

ANNAPOLIS, April 20, 1861.

To the Mayor of Baltimore:

Your dispatch received. I hoped they would send no more troops through Maryland; but, as we have no right to demand this, I am glad no more are to be sent through Baltimore. I know you will do all in your power to preserve the peace.

TH. H. HICKS.

[*Telegram to the Mayor of Baltimore.*]

ANNAPOLIS, April 20, 1861.

I have received the following dispatch:

"I desire to consult with you and the Mayor of Baltimore relative to preserving the peace of Maryland. Please come immediately by special train, which you can take at Baltimore, or, if necessary, one can be sent from here. LINCOLN."

Have you received a similar dispatch? If so, do you intend going, and at what hour? My going depends upon you. Answer at once. TH. H. HICKS.

[*Telegram in reply, without signature.*]

To the Governor of Maryland:

The Mayor is in Washington. We have no knowledge of any such movement.

[*Telegram to Mayor Brown.*]

ANNAPOLIS, April 21, 1861.

To the Mayor of Baltimore:

It is rumored here that men have been sent for from Baltimore to come here to prevent the landing of troops. Do not let them come. The troops will not land here.

TH. H. HICKS.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH BR. GEN. B. F. BUTLER.

STATE OF MARYLAND,
Executive Chamber, Annapolis, April 20, 1861.

To the Commander of the Volunteer Troops on Board the Steamer:

SIR:—I would most earnestly advise that you do not land your men at Annapolis. The excitement here is very great, and I think that you should take your men elsewhere. I have telegraphed to the Secretary of War, advising against your landing your men here.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient Servant,

TH. H. HICKS,

Governor of Maryland.

SEAL OF THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

OFF ANNAPOLIS, April 22d, 1861.

His Excellency Thos. H. Hicks, Governor of Maryland:

In reply to the communication from you on the 21st, I had the honor to inform you of the necessities of my command,

which drew me into the harbor of Annapolis. My circumstances have not changed. To that communication I have received no reply. I cannot return, if I desire so to do, without being furnished with some necessary supplies, for all which the money will be paid. I desire of your Excellency an immediate reply, whether I have the permission of the State authorities of Maryland to land the men under my command, and of passing quickly through the State, on my way to Washington, respecting private property, and paying for what I receive, and outraging the rights of none—a duty which I am bound to do in obedience to the requisitions of the President of the United States?

I have received some copies of an informal correspondence between the Mayor of Baltimore and the President of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and a copy of a note from your Excellency, enclosing the same to Capt. Blake, Commandant of the Naval School. These purport to show that instructions have been issued by the War Department as to the disposition of the United States militia, differing from what I had supposed to be my duty. If these instructions have been in fact issued, it would give me great pleasure to obey them.—Have I your Excellency's permission, in consideration of these exigencies of the case, to land my men—to supply their wants, and to relieve them from the extreme and unhealthy confinement of a transport vessel not fitted to receive them? To convince your Excellency of the good faith towards the authorities of the State of Maryland, with which I am acting, and I am armed only against the disturbers of her peace and of the United States, I enclose a copy of an order issued to my command before I had the honor of receiving the copy of your communication through Capt. Blake. I trust your Excellency will appreciate the necessities of my position, and give me an immediate reply, which I await with anxiety.

I would do myself the honor to have a personal interview with your Excellency, if you so desire. I beg leave to call your Excellency's attention to what I hope I may be pardoned for deeming an ill-advised designation of the men under my command. *They are not Northern troops—they are a part of the whole militia of the United States, obeying the call of the President.*

I have the honor of being your Excellency's obedient servant.

BENJ. F. BUTLER,

Brig. General in the Militia of the United States.

P. S.—It occurs to me that our landing on the grounds at the Naval Academy would be entirely proper, and in accordance with your Excellency's wishes. B. F. B.

SEAL OF THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Special Brigade, Order No. 37.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND DIVISION MASS. VOL. MILITIA,
On board steamer Maryland, off Annapolis, April 22d, 1861.

Col. Munroe is charged with the execution of the following order: At five o'clock A. M. the troops will be paraded by company and be drilled in the manual of arms. Especially in loading at will, firing by file, and in the use of the bayonet, and these specialties will be observed in all subsequent drills in the manual. Such drill to continue until 7 o'clock, when all the arms will be stacked upon the upper deck—great care being taken to instruct the men as to the mode of stacking their arms, so that a firm stack, not easily overturned, shall be made. Being obliged to drill at times with the weapons loaded, great damage may be done by the overturning of the stack and the discharge of the piece. This is important. Indeed, an accident has already occurred in the regiment from this cause, and although slight in its consequence, yet it warns us to increased diligence in this regard. The purpose which could only be hinted at in the orders of yesterday has been accomplished. The frigate Constitution has lain for a long time at this port substantially at the mercy of the armed mob, which sometimes paralyzes the otherwise loyal State of Maryland. Deeds of daring, successful contests and glorious victories had rendered "Old Ironsides" so conspicuous in the naval history of the country, that she was fitly chosen as the school ship in which to train the future officers of the navy to like heroic acts.

It was given to Massachusetts and Essex county first to man her; it was reserved for Massachusetts to have the honor to retain her for the service of the Union and the laws.

This is a sufficient triumph of right, and a sufficient triumph for us. By this the blood of our friends shed by the Baltimore mob is in so far avenged. The Eighth Regiment may hereafter cheer lustily on all proper occasions, but never without orders. The old Constitution, by

their efforts, aided untiringly by the United States officers having her in charge, is now safely "possessed, occupied and enjoyed" by the government of the United States, and is safe from all her foes.

We have been joined by the Seventh Regiment of New York, and together we propose peaceably, quickly and civilly, unless opposed by some mob, or other disorderly persons, to march to Washington, in obedience to the requisition of the President of the United States. If opposed we shall march steadily forward.

My next order I hardly know how to express. I cannot assume that any of the citizen soldiery of Massachusetts or New York could, under any circumstances whatever, commit any outrages upon private property in a loyal and friendly State. But fearing that some improper person may have by stealth introduced himself among us, I deem it proper to state, that any unauthorized interference with private property will be most signally punished, and full reparation therefore made to the injured party, to the full extent of my power and ability. In so doing I but carry out the orders of the War Department. I should have so done without those orders.

Col. Munroe will cause these orders to be read at the head of each company before we march.

Col. Leffert's command not having been originally included in this order, he will be furnished with a copy for his instruction.

By order of

B. F. BUTLER,
Brig. General.

{ Signed. }

WILLIAM H. CLEMENS,
Brig. Major.

STATE OF MARYLAND,
Executive Chamber, Annapolis, April 22, 1861.

To Brig. Gen. B. F. Butler:

Sir—I am in receipt of your two communications of this date, informing me of your intention to land the men under your command at Annapolis, for the purpose of marching thence to the city of Washington. I content myself with protesting against this movement, which, in view of the excited condition of the people of this State, I cannot but consider an

unwise step on the part of the Government. But I most earnestly urge upon you that there shall be no halt made by the troops in this city.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

TH. H. HICKS.

STATE OF MARYLAND,
Executive Chamber, Annapolis, April 23, 1861.

To Brig. Gen. B. F. Butler:

Sir: Having. in pursuance of the powers vested in me by the Constitution of Maryland, summoned the Legislature of the State to assemble on Friday, the 26th instant; and Annapolis being the place in which, according to law, it must assemble; and having been credibly informed that you have taken military possession of the Annapolis and Elk Ridge Railroad, I deem it my duty to protest against this step; because, without at present assigning any other reason, I am informed that such occupancy of said road will prevent the members of the Legislature from reaching this city.

Very respectfully, yours,

THOS. H. HICKS.

SEAL OF THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD BRIGADE,
UNITED STATES MILITIA,
Annapolis, Md, April 23, 1861.

To His Excellency Thos. H. Hicks,

Governor of Maryland.

You are credibly informed that I have taken possession of the Annapolis and Elkridge Railroad. It might have escaped your notice, but at the official meeting between your Excel-

lency and the Mayor of Annapolis, and the authorities of the government and myself, it was expressly stated as the reason why I should not land, that my troops could not pass the railroad, because the company had taken up the rails, and they were private property. It is difficult to see how it could be, that if my troops could not pass over the railroad one way, the members of the Legislature could pass the other way. I have taken possession for the purpose of preventing the carrying out of the threats of the mob, as officially represented to me by the Master of Transportation of this city, "that if my troops passed over the railroad, the railroad should be destroyed."

If the government of the State had taken possession of the railroad in any emergency, I should have long waited before I entered upon it. But, as I had the honor to inform your Excellency in regard to insurrection against the laws of Maryland, I am here armed to maintain those laws, if your Excellency desires, and the peace of the United States, against all disorderly persons whatever. I am endeavoring to save and not to destroy; to obtain means of transportation, so I can vacate the capital prior to the sitting of the Legislature, and not be under the painful necessity of occupying your beautiful city while the Legislature is in session.

I have the honor to be

Your Excellency's obedient servant,

Br. Gen. B. F. Butler.

Headquarters Third Brigade,
Mass. Vol. Militia,
Annapolis, Md., April 23, 1861.

To His Excellency Thos. H. Hicks,

Governor of the State of Maryland:

I did myself the honor, in my communication of yesterday, wherein I asked permission to land the portion of the militia

of the United States under my command, to state that they were armed only against the disturbers of the peace of the State of Maryland and of the United States.

I have understood within the last hour that some apprehensions were entertained of an insurrection of the negro population of this neighborhood. I am anxious to convince all classes of persons that the forces under my command are not here in any way to interfere with or countenance any interference with the laws of the State. I am, therefore, ready to co-operate with your Excellency in suppressing most promptly and effectively any insurrection against the laws of Maryland.

I beg, therefore, that you announce publicly that any portion of the forces under my command is at your Excellency's disposal, to act immediately for the preservation and quietness of the peace of this community.

And I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's obedient servant,

B. F. BUTLER,

General of Third Brigade.

STATE OF MARYLAND,
Executive Chamber, Annapolis, April 23, 1861.

To Brig. Gen. B. F. Butler:

Sir—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this morning, tendering the force under your command to aid in suppressing a rumored insurrection of the slaves in this county.

I thank you most sincerely for the tender of your men; but I had, before the receipt of your letter, directed the Sheriff of the County to act in the matter; and am confident that the citizens of the county are fully able to suppress any insurrection of our slave population.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

TH. H. HICKS.

COPY OF DISPATCHES FROM BRIG. GEN. BUTLER TO GOVERNOR CURTIN.

To His Excellency Andrew Curtin, Commander in Chief of the Forces of Pennsylvania:

Sir: Should this dispatch be forwarded to you, countersigned by His Excellency Thomas H. Hicks, Governor of Maryland, you will please to understand that the insurgents have surrendered Pikeville Arsenal, and that it, therefore, will not be necessary to advance your troops, as you were yesterday requested by me.

B. F. BUTLER,
Brigadier General.

Annapolis, April 24, 1861.

STATE OF MARYLAND,
Executive Chamber, Annapolis April 24th, 1861

To Brig. Gen. B. F. Butler:

Sir—A dispatch signed by you, addressed to Gov. A. Curtin, has been received by me, with a verbal request that I countersign it, and have it forwarded to its address.

In reference to the Arsenal at Pikeville, I have no official information. I do not know who is now in possession of it. I am cut off from all communication with other parts of the State; and have no means to forward your dispatch, if I were willing to countersign it.

I am compelled, therefore, to decline to accede to your request.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
TH. H. HICKS.